

MICHAEL F. SKINNER PROBATE JUDGE PROBATE COURT
56TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT FAMILY DIVISION

EATON COUNTY COURTHOUSE 1045 INDEPENDENCE BOULEVARD CHARLOTTE, MICHIGAN 48813 517-543-4175 • FAX: 517-543-8439

November 16, 2006

Clerk of the Court Michigan Supreme Court P.O. Box 30052 Lansing, MI 48909

Re:

ADM File No. 2005-42

Dear Clerk:

I wish to comment on the proposed amendments to MCR 3.932 as set forth in the above-referenced ADM file. My juvenile staff and I are opposed to abstracting any cases placed on the consent calendar. Doing so would remove an incentive for juvenile first offenders to accept consent calendar as an alternative to trial or pleading guilty. I believe the history of the rule would show that there was a time when consent calendar cases were abstracted. The rule was changed to its present form. I do not understand why there is this move back to the former practice. I also fail to understand why judges should treat traffic offenses differently than more serious offenses.

If the proposed amendments are adopted, I anticipate that we will see an increase in the number of cases that are taken to trial. This will place additional burdens on already crowded dockets. I strongly urge the Supreme Court to refrain from adopting these unnecessary amendments.

Very truly yours,

Michael F. Skinner

Probate Judge

MFS/lh

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